

TSGP Conference Call Q&A
May 20, 2011

Questions and Answers:

Q: Are eligible agencies the ones listed in the table in the grant guidance?

A: That is correct.

Q: In which Priority Group would Maintenance and Sustainment (M&S) be ranked? For example if you had a project that was just for a warranty of a project that was originally funded by a TSGP prior year grant does it have to be tied to an infrastructure project?

A: If you have M&S it would be eligible and would be considered Priority E with a potential score range of 1-4. The NRP (National Review Panel) would review your application and you should include the details of the original project as the score could be as high as the original project.

Q: How are high-density stations rated?

A: High-density is relative to your transit agency; you will not be compared against other agencies. So the stations in your system that have the highest daily ridership/through-put would be considered high-density.

Q: In previous years we were able to apply for M&S beyond the term of the grant period. This year's guidance does not indicate that. Is that still acceptable this year?

A: You cannot pay for anything outside the Period of Performance (POP), but a warranty can extend beyond the POP as long as the money is spent within the POP.

Q: Can you apply for multiple M&S projects on one IJ?

A: If they are on separate contracts than we can deal with that issue offline. Generally we would like to see them associated with each individual project. As far as scoring we would look at the score of the original project and it could be scored up to that number by the NRP. If you were to combine in one IJ, the NRP would likely look at what the majority of the funding is aligned with, and assign a score based on that.

Q: As far as submitting our applications can we just apply through grants.gov?

A: No. The SF-424 will need to be submitted via grants.gov and the remainder of the application must be submitted through ND Grants. Handouts of the ND Grants system will be provided at the workshops and can be sent to you from ASKCSID@dhs.gov at your request.

Q: Is the application deadline for Amtrak June 20th or July 5th?

A: June 20, 2011

Q: Does the 48 month period of performance for capital projects also apply to Amtrak?

A: No it does not apply to Amtrak. The period of performance for all projects for Amtrak is 36 months.

Q: Are consultant costs considered an unallowable expense? Our design project costs are higher than the 5% allowed for management and administration (M&A).

A: Consultants are allowable as direct costs if they are used to perform things that are aligned with the project like design costs that are built into the IJ. As long as they are not one of your employees (which would be considered supplanting), consultant costs are allowable.

Q: What would you consider as criteria to be added to the for TTAL critical infrastructure list?

A: Basically what we looked for the TTAL initially were big high-density stations, underwater tunnels, and key bridges. If you want an asset to be considered for the list explain why you would consider it to be of national consideration and how it compares with the types of assets already on the list, and what the risk is. Risk changes as threats change. As we have recently uncovered new threats explain why it should be added and how it would affect you and how it may impact other systems.

Q: Do you cover the cost of a vehicle for OPacks for K-9 teams?

A: Yes, the cost of a vehicle is allowable for OPacks.

Q: Can we submit an asset now to be added to the TTAL list for something that is coming online in the future for a high-density station?

A: We will always encourage you to submit requests. Post-9/11 project designs should have the security considerations built in, but we won't rule anything out. You should submit your IJs with your design and explain why security wasn't already built into the original design. The TTAL is an evolving list and will not just be kept at 60 assets.

Q: How long would it take to get an asset on the TTAL list?

A: It could be considered for this year's grant cycle. The review panel will be involved in reviewing the project, and if it does not rise to the level of being included on the TTAL, we can go back and explain or work with you to see what would need to be done in order for it to be on the TTAL.

Q: Is there a template for adding an asset on the TTAL?

A: Not at this time but it is something we can work on.

Q: Under operational activities, agencies are allowed to submit requests for transit security forces overtime costs. Please go into details as to what that means?

A: There have been times when events such as political conventions, which are high alert activities, and called for additional coverage, warranted the use of grant money. Rather than apply for a new team to support mobile screening, you can use existing forces, which will require additional payment for overtime to increase security during those limited timeframes.

Q: Is paying for additional overtime for events throughout the year eligible to any of the agencies on the list?

A: As long as the agency meets the requirement for OPacks, they are eligible to apply for patrols on overtime.

Q: How are you planning to handle TTAL that may be a multi-user station for which the agency does not own the actual facility?

A: We will always say that we can't work with you, without your application and IJs. We hope that you are involved with the other owners and users in discussing security measures and that you all agree to what those needs are and that everyone is in alignment. We want to further cooperation between agencies, not to limit it, however, we understand the competitive process may be more of a challenge and we will try to work through that.

Q: Is the capital project 48 month period of performance the maximum, or is there still a 60 month statutory limit?

A: The period of performance for capital projects is 48 months, but there is still a 60 month requirement for all funding to be spent, otherwise it reverts back to the Treasury Department and extensions cannot be granted.